

**Washington, D.C. – Congressman Wally Herger (R-CA) issued a statement today following the announcement that Beale Air Force Base is the Air Force’s “sole preferred alternative” for the MC-12 mission. Beale, a standout among Air Force bases nationally, has over 4,000 personnel and has a total economic impact of over \$451 million in the surrounding counties. Along with the planes, Beale AFB will be adding approximately 550 servicemembers. Herger and other California lawmakers had earlier [contacted](#) Air Force Secretary Michael Donley urging his consideration of Beale for this mission. The Air Force describes the MC-12 as a medium- to low-altitude, twin-engine turboprop aircraft. Its primary mission is providing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance support directly to ground forces. The Air Force stated that Beale AFB was chosen over six other bases to permanently house the spy planes, already deployed in the War on Terror, because of its “access to training opportunities, synergy with existing Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance flying missions, and collocation with the Distributed Ground Station mission.”**

“The Air Force’s selection of Beale AFB as the home of the MC-12 mission is wonderful news for Northern California and the base. I’m extremely pleased the Air Force concluded that Beale’s unmatched attributes make it a perfect fit for the MC-12. This decision will provide a boost to our local economy and help ensure that Beale remains one of our nation’s premiere reconnaissance bases long into the future.”

Note – As the sole preferred alternative, the Air Force has indicated that they believe that Beale AFB best fits the mission requirements for the MC-12. From this point, an Environmental Impact Study will continue for the remainder of this year. In January 2011 there will be a public comment period and in March of 2011 a final basing decision will be announced. The Air Force indicated to Congressman Herger that they don’t expect any obstacles to Beale’s final confirmation.